

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF

ROKOSCH *gkr*

THOMPSON

CHILCOTT *gc*

DRISCOLL *vd*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Members Present.....Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll.

Date.....January 10, 2008

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► Commissioner Thompson attended a Human Resource Council meeting in the morning.

► The Board met for litigation strategy regarding Westmont. Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to invoke closed door privileges. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

► The Board met for a decision regarding the Streamside Setback Committee member resignation and appointment. Present was Planner Vanessa Morrell.

Commissioner Grandstaff opened the meeting. Vanessa gave a brief review of the resignation of Larry Milless from the Streamside Setback Committee. She stated Bob Pauley, President of the Board of Realtors recommended Dorene Sain to serve out the term.

Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to appoint Dorene Sain to serve as representative of the Board of Realtors for the Streamside Setback Committee for the remainder of Larry Milless' term. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.

► The Board met with Field Representative Jessica Anderson from Representative Denny Rehberg's office. Jessica introduced herself to the Board. She stated she is here today to address any issues and questions.

Commissioner Grandstaff requested Ravalli County be put on the list of concerns with SRS funding issue. Commissioner Chilcott expressed his concern with PILT funding. He stated non-reauthorization of the SRS is very important to the Board. Jessica questioned the Bitterroot National Travel Plan. Commissioner Grandstaff replied there is an upcoming meeting to discuss the Travel Plan.

Commissioner Chilcott discussed the Highway 93 project. It is not completed and it has been ongoing for 10 years now. He understands they ran out of funding but it has been dragging out for awhile now.

Commissioner Grandstaff discussed the need for alternate transportation. Her wish would be a train from Darby to Whitefish. Commissioner Chilcott stated there is a need for another route from Darby to Missoula. In the event of a disaster, there is only one way out of the valley. Many of the wilderness dams are over 100 years old. The cost of doing any significant repairs is limited. If those dams are lost, there would be a huge impact on irrigation and agricultural operations.

Commissioner Driscoll discussed her concerns with Military issues. She would like to see some funding for the disabled veterans and to keep the centers opened. Commissioner Grandstaff stated the average veteran cannot get the assistance they need from the Department of Veteran Affairs without help.

Gene Williams stated he is a veteran. For his situation, he is seen once every six months for a 15 minute limit exam for his health needs. He went into the service in 1953. His concern is when he enlisted he was promised to be taken care of and it is a huge struggle to even get an appointment. Board discussion followed regarding the needs of the veterans.

Commissioner Chilcott discussed his concern with the CDBG grant. It is extremely important for rural counties.

Jessica thanked the Commissioners for their input and stated she will forward their concerns to Representative Denny Rehberg.

► The Board met with Road & Bridge Supervisor David Ohnstad to continue the Road & Bridge update from Monday January 7th.

Commissioner Thompson was present for this meeting as well as Commissioner Rokosch.

Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to table Lost Horse Quarry indefinitely. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

David stated East Fork Road project was postponed until 2013 by the Federal Highway Commission. He stated it was due to the increase in oil prices. He stated because of the

delay, the State will be doing service improvements. They have the Stevensville Wye project scheduled for this summer. David also stated BST has been scheduled this summer for Darby north and south, Charlos Heights and Hamilton South. Commissioner Grandstaff asked when they are proposed to start. David replied all are to start this summer.

David stated the two entrances into Blodgett Park will be reduced down to one. Commissioner Grandstaff questioned a strip of land at the south end of the park. David stated there is a small piece of land the State wanted to give to the Park Board but an agreement has not been reached yet. The Rotary Club is working with the Park Board for improvements to Blodgett Park.

David stated there is going to be a park and ride at the old store on Woodside. Highway 93 is going to have a significant amount of activity. People will be seeking alternative routes and those routes are county highways. Commissioner Chilcott asked what the plan for the construction for Stevensville Wye is north and south. David replied after the bid letting, they will have a preconstruction meeting and will schedule it.

David stated they purchased 3.2 acres next to the Stevensville Gravel Mine. Commissioner Chilcott stated there was a previous buy/sell on the property. The owner sold the property prior to the buy/sell. David discussed the contract with the owner and it defaulted. The end result is the property is now County property. They purchased it for a building site for equipment and easy access onto the highway. The previous deed holder has vacated the property. His request is to have the trailer liquidated and declared surplus property. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to have the property declared as surplus for the purpose of liquidation. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion, all voted 'aye'.**

David discussed the gravel road improvement program figures. The Martin Lane project total was \$97,000 subtract the \$12,262 paid by the citizens which leaves approximately \$84,000 as the cost to the Road Department. As in the case of Martin Lane, it was worth it. David further explained the history of the project and the process for the petition of improvement. David stated the Saint Joseph Lane project was also well worth it. He stated it would be up to the Board to approve the petitions for the gravel road improvement program.

David stated in the past they have requested RFPs for civil engineering and land surveying. They received a number of bids and selected WGM Group as a primary consulting engineer and PCI as secondary consulting engineer. For the last two years, they have extended those contracts. They have been very satisfied and pleased with the performance from those engineers. He would recommend separating civil engineering from the land surveying services with a closing date of the first part of February. He has updated the RFP for professional land surveying purposes and upon receipt will work with Planning and Clerk & Recorder for selection. The other part is to request Board direction to offer a RFP for civil engineering services or to extend the current service contracts for another year. Board discussion followed regarding the contents of the

original RFP. Commissioner Rokosch stated in fairness, it should go out for a RFP. David replied for the design for the Kootenai Creek Bridge, WGM would like to finish that work and assist with project layout and design. Commissioner Thompson stated he has no problem with extending the contract for another year. Commissioner Chilcott stated he would like to see it go out to bid but is also concerned with the protection of liability and exposure with the necessary qualifications and bonding capacity. David stated with the contract the liability is theirs not the County's.

Commissioner Grandstaff asked how much the original bid was. David replied there is no set amount however it has been about \$15,000 per year. Commissioner Driscoll stated she has a problem with them being a 'bigger fish in the pond'. She would like to see an opportunity for smaller agencies to have an opportunity within the RFP. Board discussion followed regarding design review and there was a reference made to Aspen Springs. David stated the workload itself is huge and the capacity to handle it is the question. Commissioner Rokosch questioned the amount of liability insurance. David replied the original RFP required \$1 million dollars for general liability and public liability. It also included they will be responsible for all liability.

Commissioner Grandstaff stated she would like to see it go out to bid. David stated they would honor the agreement to finish the Kootenai Creek Bridge.

Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to issue a Request for Proposal for civil engineering and a separate RFP for land surveying for the Road & Bridge Department. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion. Commissioner Chilcott questioned the position of a county surveyor. Board discussion followed regarding the county surveyor. Commissioner Grandstaff requested any further discussion, hearing none. **All voted 'aye'.**

David stated last week he gave the Board a copy of a letter from Gary Evans from Victor. It requested the Board consider the development of Clark Street. He stated there was a discussion between MDOT and the residents of Clark Street. The project was developed because of the railway crossing the intersection. David gave a brief overview of the history of the project.

David presented a map of the area and pointed out the areas to be improved. He told Dwayne Kailey of MDOT to review the changes with the residents in Victor. Commissioner Thompson stated this originated from people coming in on Victor Crossing. David stated MDOT will pave Clark Street as part of the Highway 93 project. David requested Board approval to continue with the Clark Street project and also requested for MDOT to not connect Railroad Avenue through to Victor Crossing. **The Board agreed to dead-end Railroad Avenue.**

Minutes: Glenda Wiles

► The Board met with Road & Bridge Supervisor David Ohnstad for discussion of scheduled improvements from Woodside to Bear Creek Road on Meridian Road which

has not been determined as a county road. Present were several citizens. David presented a memorandum on the management of Meridian Road. He stated the key to this discussion is on the angle from Woodside Road to Sheafman Road. Previous Board Member Commissioner Lund received numerous letters of deed from the residents (33 were returned). Several property owners did not respond and a few were not contacted. This rededication was an attempt to fall under the county's previous Civil Counsel James McCubbin's guidance. He stated 75% of the residents want the rededication and the time has come to finish this road. David asked if the current Board wants this re-graded with minor ditch grading, and then to be ready to resurface when Highway 93 comes in. One property will be serviced by a cul-de-sac. That section of Meridian Road is the only gravel road classified as a gravel highway. The annual traffic count in 2007 was 400 cars a day. Dave stated they cannot maintain a gravel road with that kind of traffic. David stated he always felt there was an easement, but before they go and finish what they have started they want to make sure the Board of County Commissioners is on board.

The section from Sheafman to Blair Lane is 1.5 miles. From Woodside to Sheafman is 1.76 miles. They have done 50% of the grading, drainage etc., with the balance of the work to be grading, drainage, shaping and prep for recycled asphalt. This could happen as early as May 2008. They hope to have ½" as their asphalt base then cover over with the cold mix which is called a chip seal. The effective life is 7 years but they will maintain it as a paved road forever. Obtaining the rotomillings is a good deal for the county.

There was some discussion of the 60' road easement and 14' drainage on particular sections of road. David stated he is confident, whether it is prescriptive use it is clearly defined as 60'.

David stated the trees were all pruned. There are some evergreen trees on the east side that were maintained 3 years ago. The Commissioners concurred this was a good idea.

They agreed from Sheafman to Blair Lane, there were no legal issues and that section should be completed. It was noted fences were moved; they made significant improvement in order to make the road ready for aggregate surfacing. David stated the people that live there still think they are going to put the rotomillings on that road. Even though the traffic drops significantly, the county made a promise to those people and therefore it should be finished.

David noted from Blair Lane to Bear Creek Trail is a section of road that is off of Bear Creek Trail which has a significant grade. This is a .5 mile in length. David addressed the fence line going south from Bear Creek Road which is at 60'. There is also ample evidence that the historic footprint included the drainage on each side to demonstrate a prescriptive use. Thus at least there is a prescriptive use of 60'. They are not proposing to move any fences here. A couple of property owners did not have any objections to drainage within the 60' width. But before they look any further, there is an issue with encroachment. Thus he would like some guidance from the Board to also make these part of our summer work plan. They would also lay the rotomillings in that location.

A citizen stated from Sheafman north is already graded, so the county should do that section first. Ellyn Jones agreed. A citizen stated they put the aggregate down in anticipating the rotomillings and they would like this finished, it is like gumbo in the rain and in the summer it is dust.

David stated when this is paved we can do a speed study and have a speed limit established. They will start with 3.75 miles weather permitting and finish up to Bear Creek mid to late July. In regard to the rotomillings they could get the finished product and put down a base then chip seal.

Commissioner Chilcott felt this project is overdue and it is a proactive project. David stated he will talk to the two property owners between Blair Lane and Bear Creek. He will attempt to contact the other resident south of Sheafman just to show he is a 'good sport'.

Steve Wilson lives on first portion Sheafman north. He stated when the back sloping was done on the road; David stated it would be reseeded with low profile grasses. But it is now thistle and knapweed which causes some concern and run off. He asked if the Road Department could kill the weeds and reseed the black slopes. David stated they did reseed once and he will talk to the Weed Department about noxious weed control and reseed.

Commissioner Driscoll asked about the cost of the project. David replied nothing thus far, but to finish (with exception of placing and processing the BST on top) he anticipates a cost of \$65,000.00.

The Board agreed this looked good to them.